

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In a floor mat system having at least two floor mats removably connected to the floor with clips that allow the floor mats to be lifted for cleaning under the mats; each floor mat having edges and corners; each floor mat including a plurality of spaced upper ribs disposed across a plurality of spaced lower ribs to define a plurality of flow-through openings that allow debris and water to flow through the floor mat; each floor mat being flexible; the improvement comprising:
the floor mats being disposed in an abutting relationship; and
each floor mat being connected to the floor with four clips positioned adjacent the corners of the floor ~~mats~~ mat; the clips engaging the lower ribs of the flexible flow-through floor mat to releasably connect the floor mat to the floor.

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2. (Original) The improvement of claim 1, wherein the system is free of rigid frame members disposed intermediate the floor mats.

3. (Original) The improvement of claim 2, wherein the floor mats have a common outer perimeter; the system further including an outer frame assembly surrounding the common outer perimeter of the floor mats.

4. (Currently amended) In a floor mat system having at least two floor mats connected to the floor with a clip;

each floor mat having edges and corners;

each floor mat having a plurality of first parallel ribs and a plurality of second parallel ribs;

each of the second ribs being perpendicular to the first ribs;

the second ribs adapted to engage the floor and support the floor mat on the floor;

each of the floor mats further including a plurality of knobs connected to the first ribs;

the knobs being adapted to engage the floor to support the floor mat;

the clip defining at least one ~~holes~~ hole that receives one of the knobs;

the improvement comprising:

the floor mats being disposed in an abutting relationship; and

each floor mat being connected to the floor with at least one clip.

5. (Original) The improvement of claim 4, wherein the system is free of rigid frame members disposed intermediate the floor mats.

6. (Original) The improvement of claim 4, wherein the floor mats have a common outer perimeter; the system further including an outer frame assembly surrounding the common outer perimeter of the floor mats.

7. (Original) The improvement of claim 4, wherein the clip is disposed at the center of each floor mat.

8. (Original) The improvement of claim 4, wherein a clip is disposed at each corner of each floor mat.

9. (Original) In a floor mat system having at least two floor mats connected to the floor with clips that releasably engage the floor mats such that the floor mats may be lifted from the floor simply by lifting upwardly on the floor mat and pulling it off of the clip;

each floor mat having edges and corners;

each floor mat having a plurality of first parallel ribs and a plurality of second parallel ribs;

each of the second ribs being perpendicular to the first ribs;

the second ribs adapted to engage the floor and support the floor mat on the floor;

each of the floor mats further including a plurality of knobs connected to the first ribs;

the knobs being adapted to engage the floor to support the floor mat;

each clip defining at least two holes; each of the holes receiving a knob when the floor mat is connected to the floor with the clip;

the improvement comprising:

the floor mats being disposed in an abutting relationship; and

each floor mat being connected to the floor with at least four clips disposed at the corners of the floor mat.

10. (Original) The improvement of claim 9, wherein the system is free of rigid frame members disposed intermediate the floor mats.

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11. (Original) The improvement of claim 9, wherein the floor mats have a common outer perimeter; the system further including an outer frame assembly surrounding the common outer perimeter of the floor mats.

12. (New) The improvement of claim 1, wherein each clip releasably engages the floor mat in a manner that allows the floor mat to be lifted from the floor simply by lifting upwardly on the floor mat and pulling it off the clip.

13. (New) The improvement of claim 3, wherein the floor mats are free of connections with the outer frame.

14. (New) The improvement of claim 4, wherein the clip releasably engages the floor mat in a manner that allows the floor mat to be lifted from the floor simply by lifting upwardly on the floor mat and pulling it off the clip.

15. (New) The improvement of claim 6, wherein the floor mats are free of connections with the outer frame.

16. (New) The improvement of claim 11, wherein the floor mats are free of connections with the outer frame.

17. (New) In a floor mat system having at least two floor mats removably connected to the floor with clips that allow the floor mats to be lifted for cleaning under the mats; each floor mat having edges and corners; each floor mat including a plurality of spaced upper ribs disposed across a plurality of spaced lower ribs to define a plurality of flow-through openings that allow debris and water to flow through the floor mat; each floor mat being flexible; the improvement comprising:

the floor mats being disposed in an abutting relationship; and

each floor mat being connected to the floor with a single clip positioned centrally with respect to the floor mat spaced from the edges and corners of the floor mat.

18. (New) The improvement of claim 17, wherein the system is free of rigid frame members disposed intermediate the floor mats.

19. (New) The improvement of claim 18, wherein the floor mats have a common outer perimeter; the system further including an outer frame assembly surrounding the common outer perimeter of the floor mats.

20. (New) The improvement of claim 19, wherein the floor mats are free of connections with the outer frame.

21. (New) The improvement of claim 17, wherein each clip releasably engages the floor mat in a manner that allows the floor mat to be lifted from the floor simply by lifting upwardly on the floor mat and pulling it off the clip.